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DADE COUNTY COMMISSION

11

REGULAR MEETING

12

JANUARY 7, 2010

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1 MR. RUMLEY: We'll call this meeting to
2 order. This is the regularly scheduled meeting of
3 the Dade County Commission which takes place on the
4 first Thursday of every month. Proper notice of
5 this meeting was given to the legal organ of Dade
6 County. It has been posted in the hallway of the
7 Administration Building. At this time, I'd like to
8 ask Little Ted to lead us in prayer and Pledge of
9 Allegiance to the flag, please.

10 (Thereupon, the invocation and
11 Pledge of Allegiance were given.)

12 MR. RUMLEY: At this time I need a roll
13 call. Mr. Cervelli?

14 MR. CERVELLI: Here.

15 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

16 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

18 MR. LOWERY: Here.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Rumley, here. And
20 Mr. Goff, he is on a mission trip in Mexico. He
21 went down to help some people with a group and he'll
22 be back actually in the next week. So we're shy one
23 tonight, but we wish him every bit of luck because
24 where he's going, from what I've seen, is really a
25 poor area.

1 Okay. The reading of the minutes of
2 the previous month's regular meeting will not be
3 required since all commissioners have been furnished
4 copies in advance. The minutes are public record
5 and available for review in my office. The minutes
6 are included in the consent agenda. At this time,
7 Don, would you please go over the consent agenda?

8 MR. TOWNSEND: Approval of the previous
9 Commission special called meeting on December 3rd
10 and approval of the regular meeting minutes on
11 December 3rd; contract with the Dade County
12 Chamber of Commerce as amended by a version of
13 Lionel Austin that was delivered this afternoon;
14 resolution for qualifying fees for 2010 primary and
15 general elections and then ordinance number
16 01-07-10, the first to the consent agenda with those
17 ordinance numbers is A Charter 3.01 vacancies, the
18 adding of the new citation for OCGA, B is Chapter 6
19 regarding alcoholic beverages Section 6-111 dealing
20 with the levy, C, Chapter 10, amusements and
21 entertainment, Article 2 and D, Chapter 46, solid
22 waste 46-36 dealing with definitions. That's it.

23 MR. RUMLEY: Any questions? Peter?

24 MR. CERVELLI: No.

25 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Do I hear a motion

1 we approve the consent agenda?

2 MR. LOWERY: I make a motion we approve
3 the consent agenda.

4 MR. RUMLEY: I have a motion. Do I
5 hear a second?

6 MR. PITTMAN: I'll second.

7 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. I'll call the roll.
8 Mr. Cervelli?

9 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

10 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

11 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

12 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

13 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

14 MR. RUMLEY: The chair votes yes.

15 We'll move down to the district commissioner's
16 committee reports. Mr. Lowery?

17 MR. LOWERY: There's not a lot tonight.

18 The courthouse is really moving along well. First
19 they fought floods and rains and now they're
20 fighting freezing temperatures, but they've really
21 made some great progress for what's been going on.
22 I've been down there several times and looked at it.
23 It's a good looking job what we're getting from what
24 I've seen. I know you're more involved in it than
25 what I am.

1 We have a new code red thing. We'll
2 probably talk about it more next month when there's
3 people here and there's some forms to fill out in
4 the commission office if you want to get on that
5 where there's inclement weather or school closings.
6 It's real good, something that Alex has done.

7 MR. RUMLEY: You can also call 911 --
8 don't call 911, but call our 911 office and they can
9 actually help you go online to fill it out. A lot
10 of people has got their cell phones and their home
11 phones. It's really a good thing. It's the next
12 thing to having the air signals throughout the
13 county. In fact, it's better because it instantly
14 if we have inclement weather or if we have any type
15 of threat or anything, school closings.

16 MR. LOWERY: A lot of times early
17 warnings -- especially, you would know of all
18 people, tornadoes. If you've got that extra
19 minute's notice, it may save your life or your
20 family.

21 MR. RUMLEY: That's true. It's one of
22 the best things that's happened.

23 MR. LOWERY: We'll talk about it next
24 month when we have more people here. Something
25 you're going to hear more about this month too is

1 I'm going to be a grandpa. I'm tickled to death
2 about that.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Good. I'm proud for you.
4 Scottie?

5 MR. PITTMAN: I've just got a couple of
6 things, too. I had a gentleman call me about some
7 center line reflectors going up Hales Gap. He said
8 he came up and it was foggy the other night and
9 couldn't hardly stay in the road, so Billy has
10 reflectors ordered and in stock, but you can't put
11 them down until the ground temperature is 40 degrees
12 for three or four days.

13 MR. RUMLEY: On asphalt, right.

14 MR. PITTMAN: It has to be warm a few
15 days after that. So right now they are ordered.
16 We've got them on hand, but they will not be applied
17 probably for another -- at least another month until
18 the weather breaks. And speaking of that, I would
19 like for all the road crew to know how much we
20 appreciate their hard work. When we've got weather
21 like this, those guys will be out for -- they've
22 been out all day and they'll probably be out all
23 night.

24 MR. RUMLEY: All night really. We're
25 going to let some of them go home and then come back

1 because this thing is just starting. The freezing
2 part is just now starting.

3 MR. PITTMAN: Anytime we get any kind
4 of wind, snow, ice, those guys work around the
5 clock. They don't make a whole lot of overtime.
6 Usually they'll end up giving up some of the regular
7 shifts just to keep from getting overtime. Now,
8 occasionally you end up where you have to get them
9 on overtime. Billy does a really good job managing
10 and it seems like they all pitch in and get along
11 and do a really good job. So we are fortunate to
12 have a good crew and just want them to know how much
13 we appreciate them and that's all I've got.

14 MR. RUMLEY: Christmas Eve night, all
15 night from 11:30 on into the -- I think it was
16 10:30, 11:00 before Billy actually went home. They
17 were out all night long. It was constant, trees
18 falling. Alex Case, the 911 people, it's something
19 you take for granted while you're in the house, at
20 home and enjoying Christmas and your family. You
21 need to think about it. Of course, Georgia Power,
22 those men were out there working, too. A lot of
23 times you take things for granted. You don't know
24 how you miss your power or water or a road that you
25 can't get home, you know. So if you see these

1 people out, that's the best reward they can have is
2 pat them on the back and tell them you appreciate
3 them.

4 MR. PITTMAN: Volunteer firefighters.

5 MR. RUMLEY: Yeah. Our firefighters,
6 that's just amazing. We've got a really good group
7 of people that works together in this county. It's
8 something to be proud of. Go ahead, Peter.

9 MR. CERVELLI: All right. Thank you.
10 Just for the record, even though we don't have a big
11 crowd here tonight, I'll talk about finances a
12 little bit. I'll talk about local option sales tax
13 that came in for December. We took in \$169,000
14 approximately. If you look at this year versus last
15 year, basically our local option sales tax is down
16 almost 14 percent year over year. If you just
17 compare this month to last December, it's down
18 21 percent. The same obviously is true for
19 S.P.L.O.S.T, percentages are the same in terms of
20 being down. We took in \$216,000 in S.P.L.O.S.T
21 revenue. Given that we have a reduced expectation
22 for S.P.L.O.S.T though, that was within budget.
23 It's actually a little bit more than we hoped we
24 would get in every month. So if we can stay at that
25 level, we'll make our goals in terms of

1 S.P.L.O.S.T., but it's hard to tell. Basically
2 everything is flat. Nothing has really changed
3 since April. The numbers, if you average them out,
4 stay about the same. So people are in a spending
5 pattern it looks like and it hasn't changed yet.

6 Regarding the budget for last year,
7 obviously, we've closed the year. It's over. And I
8 want to thank all of the employees that participated
9 in the sacrifices of the furlough. You know, it
10 made a difference to us and it made a difference to
11 them and to their family's income and we really
12 appreciate that sacrifice.

13 We ended the year with our revenue
14 coming in at about 98 and a half percent and our
15 expenses coming in at about 91.7 percent. So in
16 spite of it being a difficult year, we're ending in
17 a positive and we may actually carry over a little
18 bit of reserve into next year, this year to help us
19 with the unexpected, so -- all of our department
20 heads, constitutional officers have done a very good
21 job of managing to the budget and this is a tough
22 year and I think we should be proud in Dade County.

23 MR. RUMLEY: Amen.

24 MR. CERVELLI: A good job was done by
25 all. So other than that, be careful going home.

1 MR. RUMLEY: That's true. It is a
2 frigid night out there. What Peter touched on
3 there, that -- our county officials, our tax
4 assessor, our probate judge, Jan Ellison, all these
5 people, the sheriff, they need to be commended
6 because this has been a tough year. It's been a
7 tough year anywhere, any county. It's not been a
8 good year to be in a position we're in anywhere, any
9 county, in the state of Georgia or Tennessee or
10 anywhere because the revenues, it's really been
11 tough and we could do our jobs right now to the line
12 and call it whatever, but if you don't have
13 cooperation from these people -- and not only the
14 people, but the employees. I can't say thank you
15 enough and, you know, it's just -- you know, we seem
16 like we've kind of pulled together. The first of
17 the year, first few months, it was kind of, I guess,
18 a get to knowing process between all of us. And the
19 sheriff, I never worked with Patrick before and, of
20 course, Jan and Jane, we've been down the road
21 before, but, you know, it's -- it feels good to come
22 through such a tough year and actually have -- it's
23 not going to be a big reserve, but we're going to be
24 able to carry just a little over in reserve and
25 that's saying something. It could have went right

1 the opposite.

2 But anyway, we had -- December, of
3 course, we had, of course, the holidays came in and
4 it was kind of a short month. It went by real fast,
5 but we had a lot of wind back when we were talking
6 about on the day before Christmas, Christmas Eve.
7 We spent a lot of time, Don and I, the whole office
8 just kind of winding down the year, just seeing how
9 we were coming out, how we did come out. And as I
10 said, we came out pretty good.

11 Tonight I'm going to go ahead and blend
12 this in because we want to go ahead and get this
13 over. People are wanting to go home. It's a bad
14 night. We've got some special people here tonight.
15 Y'all come on up, Dex. We have a man here
16 representing his son tonight that's in the Army.
17 These people here, there's three young men in the
18 county that have got their Eagle Scout. I'll get
19 these certificates out and we want to honor them
20 tonight. I can't say enough. I can't, you know,
21 even express how proud I am of Dex and Caleb Raines
22 and also we have Chris Bell. Chris's daddy is here
23 tonight to accept this award for him because Chris
24 is in the Army. Isn't that right? He couldn't be
25 here tonight. He's actually -- is he in basic

1 training?

2 MR. BELL: He's in South Korea.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. And Caleb couldn't
4 make it tonight, but nevertheless, we have Dex
5 Wooten, which is the son of Nathan and Monda Wooten.
6 Dex is -- I've known him since he was in diapers, so
7 I'm proud of you and it's an honor. You know, a lot
8 of people don't realize what it is to be an Eagle
9 Scout. When I was a Boy Scout, you know, I tried
10 to, but I didn't quite make it. I guess I got off
11 on other things, you know, sports and school because
12 it's hard to stay focused. But an Eagle Scout --
13 and I realize more as I'm grown up now, you know, if
14 I'm looking at a resume and I'm going to hire a
15 person, if you look and he's an Eagle Scout, you put
16 that fellow right up there at the top. Most
17 employers, they really -- Dex, explain a little bit.
18 You don't have to go through the whole thing because
19 I listened to ole Dex. He made a speech the other
20 night, you know, a five-minute speech in about an
21 hour. Go through -- how many merit badges did you
22 actually go through, actually did you earn.

23 DEX WOOTEN: Thirty-eight.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Thirty-eight and what was
25 required?

1 DEX WOOTEN: Twenty-one.

2 MR. RUMLEY: So you went over and
3 above. Not only that, it's a process. How many
4 years did you actually work on this thing?

5 DEX WOOTEN: Well, I joined Cub Scouts
6 at four, but it didn't really count up until 10 or
7 11 years old because you just do Cub Scouts. Then
8 ten years old, so it took me to 17, seven years.

9 MR. RUMLEY: But I just want y'all to
10 know, the Commission and all of Dade County is proud
11 of you. We really are. I'm going to go ahead and
12 give this to Dex and go ahead and give Chris, his
13 father. We really appreciate you. And Caleb, I
14 will see you probably tomorrow and I'll give you
15 yours. We're really proud of y'all.

16 Okay. Barton Harris, he's not here
17 tonight, the mayor. That's not required that Barton
18 be here, but we always give him his spot of fame
19 here, you know, every month. So don't feel bad or
20 feel like he's not doing his job by not being here.
21 That's not a requirement. He comes to some of our
22 meetings and some he doesn't. We appreciate Barton
23 because we do work closely with our City.

24 Okay. Don, do you want go ahead and
25 give us our finance report?

1 MR. TOWNSEND: For December 31st, 2009,
2 the general fund had a balance of \$326,396; federal
3 asset fund, \$32,796; special sheriff's fund, 22,457;
4 dug abuse education fund, 34,398; supplemental
5 juvenile services fund, 13,574; victim assistance
6 fund, 3,587; jail fund, 12,704; federal asset fund,
7 Department of Justice, 303; and payroll account,
8 80,477.

9 We're about to finish up our 2004
10 S.P.L.O.S.T as far as the capital assets finally and
11 we are whittling away the old principal and interest
12 account. The construction account is still at a
13 healthy 2,604,392. That is money that was
14 capitalized for the purpose of building the new
15 courthouse along with some other capitalized
16 projects. Proceeds account for the new S.P.L.O.S.T
17 is \$342,974 and the projects account currently
18 stands at 124,948.

19 The fire departments are all in check.
20 We actually have one fire department now that has
21 used their money, their S.P.L.O.S.T bonded money and
22 that's New Home Fire Department with their
23 capitalized purchases.

24 As Commissioner Cervelli noted, we do
25 have our books closed out at this point. The

1 actuals so far as far as the revenues go is
2 \$2,333,250 for the month of December for a total
3 year-to-date revenue of 8,868,136. You may note up
4 there under tax commissioner, \$2,065,504. That was
5 really pretty much incredible that they brought --
6 it's the first time since I've been here we've seen
7 over \$2 million brought in in one month, so that was
8 very healthy amount of not only property taxes, but,
9 of course, the car tags and such.

10 Then at the bottom under expenses, we
11 had \$822,635 in actual expenses for the month of
12 December and year-to-date 8,244,982 for the year.
13 So if you take away the expenses from the revenues,
14 year-to-date that would leave a positive balance of
15 623,154. So we'll see how that goes and we, of
16 course, have started January 1st, our new
17 six-month budget year, so we'll have two budgets,
18 two audits, two everything this year and we're well
19 on our way. Everything is looking good. We still
20 have some funds to come in for the month of December
21 that we posted back in December that we always have
22 to by state law post those revenues back that will
23 come in within the next 60 days. They're coming in
24 very well, so I expect everything to be fine there.
25 Commissioner Cervelli has already noted the special

1 purpose and local option sales tax figures and, of
2 course, they were up a little bit, but nowhere near
3 where we hoped. So I'm asking Dade County to shop
4 at home.

5 MR. RUMLEY: We really need to. We
6 stress that every month, but it's really important.
7 Any questions for Don on the financial report?
8 Peter?

9 MR. CERVELLI: No.

10 MR. RUMLEY: I need a motion to approve
11 our financial report.

12 MR. CERVELLI: I'll make a motion we
13 approve the financial report.

14 MR. RUMLEY: Do I hear a second?

15 MR. PITTMAN: Second.

16 MR. RUMLEY: I do have a second.
17 Mr. Cervelli?

18 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

20 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

22 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

23 MR. RUMLEY: The chair votes yes.

24 Thank you, Don. Good job.

25 Robin, have you got anything, legal

1 matters you need to discuss with us?

2 MR. ROGERS: No, nothing new to report.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Unfinished business, no.

4 Anyone want to come up and talk to us tonight?

5 Debbie, have you got anything to say, anyone?

6 MS. TINKER: Well, we want to thank the
7 Commission for working with us on our contract, also
8 Lionel Austin will be serving as our president again
9 this year.

10 MR. RUMLEY: Oh, he will?

11 MS. TINKER: Yes, he will be.

12 MR. RUMLEY: I didn't know that.

13 MS. TINKER: Yes. We amended the
14 constitution and bylaws by a vote of the membership
15 in December that will allow a president to serve two
16 terms if the Chamber Board of Directors so choose
17 and they so choose and he was voted back again and
18 Butch Raper will be serving as our president elect
19 and hopefully we'll have him for two years after
20 that and then maybe two years as past president,
21 too, and I'll get to keep him five years. We've got
22 some very good members coming up, Susan McConathy
23 from Fox Fire, John Talbot from National Boiler,
24 Brenda Gass from D&B Powder Coating.

25 MR. CERVELLI: H.A. McKaig.

1 MS. TINKER: H.A. McKaig from New Salem
2 Community Improvement. He also is with Arcadis, but
3 his member is through the New Salem Community
4 Center.

5 MR. RAPER: Just a quick note on top of
6 that, if you don't care, even though we had several
7 people that didn't file to become board members,
8 there were several that did not make it, but yet we
9 have promoted those two ambassadors to the Chamber
10 and will be providing more so we can reach out more
11 to the community and have more people to work on
12 different projects and things that we venture out
13 into.

14 MS. TINKER: And one other thing, too.
15 We hope to do quarterly seminars and meetings where
16 just like we want to have the Department of Labor to
17 come in and bring people even from Atlanta to let
18 our companies know there are so many incentives to
19 hiring people that are free, you know. They can
20 have employees come in and work for them for free.
21 The State will pay for this. If it doesn't work
22 out, then, you know, they can try another employer.
23 If that employee doesn't like it, they can go
24 another job, but we hope to do at least one of these
25 quarterly for our businesses in Dade County. If

1 y'all have any suggestions, we would like some.

2 MR. RUMLEY: I appreciate it. Anyone
3 else? Dex, now is the time, son, if you want to
4 make a speech.

5 DEX WOOTEN: No, sir.

6 MR. RUMLEY: I appreciate everyone
7 showing up tonight. It's really a bad night.
8 Everyone be careful going home. I did want to
9 announce that the government offices here will open
10 a little later in the morning at ten o'clock to
11 be -- to let our employees get here hopefully safely
12 because the roads are really -- we're just going
13 into a temperature drop outside and everything out
14 there -- of course, it's not going to thaw. It's
15 just going to be more ice. Billy and our road crew
16 is already going over many of the roads a second
17 time where they salted and graveled. They actually
18 thawed out, but now they're freezing again. So just
19 be careful and if you have to get out in the morning
20 and go to work, try to leave a little bit early.
21 It's a serious -- it's going to be a serious night
22 out there tonight.

23 MS. TINKER: The State is going to be
24 working theirs tonight, too.

25 MR. RUMLEY: That's right. Your

1 husband works for the State. So they're going all
2 through the night, too. I appreciate everyone being
3 here. Does anyone want to add anything, Peter,
4 anyone? If not, the meeting is adjourned.

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6 END OF PROCEEDING
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
)
COUNTY OF HAMILTON)

I, Erin M. Flatt, Court Reporter and
Notary Public, in and for Hamilton County and the
State of Tennessee at Large, do hereby certify that
I reported in machine shorthand the proceedings had
in the above-styled cause on the 7th day of
January, 2010;

That the said proceedings were
reduced to typewriting under my personal supervision;
and that the foregoing is a transcript of said
proceedings.

This the 30th day of January, 2010.

Erin M. Flatt
Erin M. Flatt, Notary Public
in and for the State of
Tennessee at Large.
My commission expires
November 7, 2010.

